

Routine Proceedings

[English]

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition on behalf of Council 4302 of the Knights of Columbus in Springhill, Nova Scotia.

These people, almost 2,000 in total, are in disagreement with the goods and services tax and are tired of being challenged and laboured by increased tax burdens. They calling upon Parliament to drop this unfair, crippling tax that has as its target low and middle income Canadians.

In addition, I have a second petition from individuals and constituents of the federal constituency, like the previous one, of Cumberland—Colchester, primarily in the Amherst area. They are also in opposition to this particular goods and services tax. They call upon Parliament to rescind the particular matter which is before Parliament at the present time.

• (1110)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition to this House on behalf of Mr. Yih-Sheh Leo, a Canadian citizen who has been persecuted for political reasons in Taiwan.

The petition calls upon the government to use its good offices in the Canadian Embassy in Japan and the High Commission in Hong Kong and to send a representative to Taiwan to assist Mr. Leo in protecting himself against this improper, unfair, undemocratic and inappropriate attack on freedom of speech.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to present a petition, pursuant to Standing Order 36, on behalf of a number of constituents from the constituency of Kamloops who are totally distressed that the government continues to proceed with its goods and services tax.

They point out at some length all their concerns, including the fact that it will erode their purchasing power, that it will tax critical items such as heating fuels,

and that it is regionally discriminatory because it will be on transportation costs. They go on and on.

The petitioners are asking the government, even at this point, to reconsider what it is doing and to go back to the drawing-board and start all over.

BALTIC STATES

Mrs. Pauline Browes (Scarborough Centre): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present a petition in the House today concerning the Baltic States of Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia. Canada has not recognized the illegal annexation of the Baltic states by the Soviet Union.

Whereas Canada is a signatory to the final act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe which affirms the principle of self-determination of people, the petitioners call upon the Government of Canada to acknowledge favourably the aspirations of Canadians of Estonian heritage who stand united in their support of the Congress of Estonia, which will convene in Tallinn, Estonia, on March 11 and 12, 1990.

Canadians of Estonian heritage will be attending that particular conference and participating in it. The petitioners will express their collective will at that conference of the Estonia people as to their future for freedom.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I also have the honour, under Standing Order 36, to present a petition on behalf of a number of Canadians who live in the area where I grew up, the County of Haldimand in southern Ontario.

They feel like many British Columbians that the goods and services tax is a completely unfair and punitive tax. They call upon Parliament to reject the current proposal for a goods and services tax and to reform the taxation system so that there is an effective minimum tax on wealthy individuals and corporations.

They want to ensure that if and when there is a broad public consensus on a sales tax measure to replace the manufacturers' sales tax this would not be a massive government tax grab.

They call on the government to cease with the proposal which will shift the tax burden on to ordinary Canadians through a regressive consumption tax instead of through real tax reform.